

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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DELAWARE DIGS OUT; ROAD CLEARING, RECOVERY ONGOING UNNECESSARY TRAVEL STILL DISCOURAGED

Early morning snow started approximately the same time as Delaware Department of Transportation crews hit the roads again today at 4 a.m. Although snow accumulation was not significant, it required crews to return to work on primary roads that had been cleared by Monday afternoon.

Now, DelDOT crews continue snow removal operations statewide, concentrating efforts to begin opening up many of the roadways not previously reached due to extreme snowfall accumulations. With most primary roads again treated and passable, snow removal crews have broken off and are heading out to secondary and tertiary, or lesser-traveled roads.

Officials urge the public to continue to limit travel. Primary roads are open, but may become icy as night temperatures fall. There is still the potential for sliding or getting stuck and stranded on many secondary and other less-traveled roads. For safety of all, those who can are asked to delay travels until crews and emergency workers have more time to clear roads and respond to emergency needs.

DelDOT spokesperson Michele Ackles said crews are doing all they can to reach areas that have not been treated, and crews will continue operations all day. DelDOT asks for the patience of Delaware residents as workers fight the effects of what should prove to be a record-setting blizzard. Updates on conditions will be shared through DEMA and posted on DelDOT's web site and WTMC-1380 AM.

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Snow accumulations in excess of 20 inches in many areas, compounded by blowing wind, have caused drift conditions in numerous places, especially in more rural areas and some developments. Drifts of more than of three to five feet are common on many roads; these drifts require the use of larger snow equipment.

Pieces of larger equipment are limited in number statewide and the larger plow trucks and tractors are slower to operate than typical trucks with plows. In many cases it will be necessary to first use a large V-Plow for what workers describe as “busting out” to break up packed, crusty snow and open a path. The V-Plows must then be followed by more typical trucks and plows. In some cases, snow blowers or tractors are used to break through the drifts, and again, they are followed with trucks and plows.

In addition to the efforts of DelDOT, many other state and local departments and agencies continue to coordinate in moving essential personnel and equipment around and in getting information and services to the public. Delaware Emergency Management Agency remains partially activated and in frequent communication with emergency management offices in the counties and the City of Wilmington.

More than 60 members of the Delaware National Guard are supporting efforts of state and local agencies, using HumVees and heavy trucks to move people and supplies to otherwise inaccessible locations.

Three American Red Cross of Delmarva shelters remain open. Continuing sheltering or opening additional locations will be made on an as-needed basis.

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